

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 04801 132056Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /089 W

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R 131727Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2113

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, EEC

SUBJECT: SPAIN IS AGAIN DEBATED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING A THREE HOUR DEBATE ON MAY 12 IN STRASBOURG, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN SPAIN AND A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. IN A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM PRIOR DEBATES ON SPAIN, THE TONE OF THE DEBATE WAS SUBDUED AND THE RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGED "EFFORTS ALREADY BEGUN TOWARD THE CREATION OF A GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC REGIME." THE PARLIAMENT REITERATED ITS DESIRE TO SEE SPAIN JOIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ONCE DEMOCRACY IS RESTORED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 12, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON SPAIN PREPARED BY ITS POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 04801 132056Z

COMMITTEE. CONSERVATIVE MP'S, LED BY SIR PETER KIRK (UK)

VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION, BUT ONLY AFTER EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S "PENCHANT FOR INTERFERING" IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SPAIN. KIRK SAID THAT THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE FOR ALARM OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN BUT THAT ACTIONS TAKEN THUS FAR BY THE GOS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED AND THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT NORMALIZATION AFTER 30 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP CANNOT BE ACHIEVED OVER NIGHT. STATING THAT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE SITUATION IN SPAIN COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, KIRK URGED HIS FELLOW DEPUTIES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE WITHIN THE GOS WHICH IS COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. CONSERVATIVE MP'S ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE REFERENCE IN THE RESOLUTION TO "LEGALIZATION OF ALL PARTIES" AMENDED TO READ "ALL DEMOCRATIC" PARTIES, BUT THIS WAS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT NO POLITICAL PARTIES ARE BANNED IN THE EC MEMBER STATES, (ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE, I.E. THE LONG PROSCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN GERMANY.)

3. MAURICE FAURE (SOC., FRANCE) THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF THE RESOLUTION, CITED RECENT ABUSES BY THE GOS, INCLUDING THE ARREST OF COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER MARCELINO CAMACHO, AS MAKING IT INCUMBENT UPON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO SPEAK OUT, PARTICULARLY HE SAID, WHEN SPAIN IS BEING LOOKED UPON AS A POTENTIAL MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WHILE HE CALLED FOR ALL-OUT SUPPORT OF THE "DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE" IN SPAIN, AND APPEALED TO THE GOS TO DECLARE AN AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PERMIT THE EXISTENCE OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, FAURE ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PROGRESS MADE TO DATE, PARTICULARLY THE RESTORATION OF "CERTAIN" PRESS FREEDOMS AND THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE UNCONDITIONED HOLDING OF THE RECENT UGT CONGRESS. THIS HAD A MODERATING EFFECT ON THE DEBATE WHICH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EFFORTS BY A FEW SOCIALISTS TO UPSTAGE THE COMMUNIST GROUP WITH CRUSADING RHETORIC, WAS CONDUCTED IN A MORE SUBDUED MANNER THAN PREVIOUS DEBATES ON SPAIN IN PARLIAMENT.

4. ALFRED BERTRAND (CD, BELGIUM) SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC GROUP, ECHOED THE SENTIMENTS OF MOST SPEAKERS WHEN HE SAID THAT SPAIN SHOULD ONE DAY BE A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROVIDED CERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 04801 132056Z

CONDITIONS ARE FULFILLED. THE ELECTION OF A DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT, HE SAID, WAS PARAMOUNT AMONG THOSE CONDITIONS.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE DEBATE, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES COMMENTED ON THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY VIS-A-VIS THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF SPAIN AND ON THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED STATUS OF EC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION AS WELL AS ALL THE MEMBER STATES HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH SPANISH

AUTHORITIES CONCERNING PROPOSALS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. GOS LEADERS, HE SAID, HAVE THE OBJECTIVE OF PUTTING SPAIN INTO A SUFFICIENTLY DEMOCRATIC SITUATION TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP IN A YEAR OR TWO. MUCH DEPENDS, HE ADDED, ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CHANGES IN SPAIN WILL MEAN THE "ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY IN THE PUREST SENSE OF THE WORD"; IN THE MEANTIME IT WAS NOT UP TO THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE SPAIN ADVICE ON THE NATURE AND PACE OF CHANGE, BUT RATHER TO WISH THEM WELL AS THEY WORK TO REESTABLISH DEMOCRACY AFTER 30 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP.

6. SOAMES SAID THAT THE GOS IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE EC WANTS TO WAIT UNTIL DUE PROCESS TAKES HOLD BEFORE CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP. IF SPAIN APPLIES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN TWO YEARS, THE ACCESSION PROCESS WOULD PERHAPS REQUIRE ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. SOAMES CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT "THE COMMISSION YIELDS TO NONE ITS HOPE THAT THE SPANISH PEOPLE WILL FIND A WAY IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD TO FIND FREEDOM."

7. COMMENT: MP'S FELLERMAIER (SOC., GERMANY), DALYELL (SOC., UK) AND BORDU (COM., FRANCE) ATTACKED SOAMES ON THE GROUND THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE THAT SPAIN WAS "SO FAR DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD EC MEMBERSHIP" AND DEMANDED THAT A NEW DEBATE BE HELD TO CALL THE COMMISSION INTO ACCOUNT. IT WAS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF SOCIALISTS, WERE FED UP WITH FELLER-MAIER (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO BY OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS AS THE "HOUSE DEMAGOGUE") AND THE COMMUNISTS AND IN NO MOOD TO CONTINUE OR EXPAND THE DEBATE. OUR CONVERSATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER THE DEBATE WITH DEPUTIES FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS INDICATED THAT THE VIEW IS INCREASINGLY TAKING HOLD IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO STEP BACK AND TO LEAVE THE EVOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SPAIN TO THE SPANIARDS.HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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